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ized that *P. plumbeus* might possibly occur there, as it does a little farther east, in Nevada (Taylor's Birds, etc., of Northern Humboldt County, Nevada, p. 419).

**Regulus satrapa olivaceus.** Western Golden-crowned Kinglet. A family group encountered July 3, 1912, at an altitude of 7500 feet on the east slope of the Warner Range, and the species repeatedly seen thereafter near Eagle Peak. Not previously recorded from these mountains.

*Santa Barbara, California, December 8, 1915.*

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**House Finch or Linnet?**—*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis* has long been known in the A. O. U. *Check-List* as the House Finch. It is generally known by that name over its whole vast range except in a portion of California. Yet it is rather persistently called Linnet (or, worse still, California Linnet) by a group of Californians of an ornithological turn of mind, who frequently succeed in getting one or the other of those terms into so excellent a magazine as THE CONDOR. Is it impertinent to ask why?

"Linnet" is certainly not distinctive. It means nothing. It is applied to different species in different parts of the world, and by the vast majority of ornithologists of the world would, if standing by itself without the technical name, be taken to mean a very different species which does not occur where the House Finch is found.

Surely no one can defend the term "California Linnet" as applied to this bird. The temporarily successful effort a few years ago to have the latter adopted in the *Check-List* savored of an attempt to boost California real estate by foisting upon this wide-spread species a geographic name representing only a short, narrow strip along the extreme edge of its range. Some of us who frequently visit that great state and view its wealth and natural resources, enjoying its surf-bathing, climate, scenery and other advantages, admire the loyalty and boosting spirit of its citizens, but feel that it is hardly necessary to thus misrepresent the range of a bird species in ornithological nomenclature, in order to sustain California's splendid material progress. Also we are constrained to believe that the few who are seeking to do so do not really represent the ornithologists of the state. I hope I may not be considered presumptuous in inviting the few seceders to move back into the United States and conform to the custom of the country, in the interests of nomenclatural uniformity.—JUNIUS HENDERSON, *University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado.*

**Shearwaters on San Francisco Bay.**—On the afternoon of September 8, 1915, while crossing the bay from San Francisco to Sausalito at 4:30 o'clock, a small movement of Shearwaters, presumably *Puffinus griseus*, was observed. The birds were working on an ebb tide from the upper bay toward the Golden Gate, their line of flight being between Alcatraz and Angel islands. All crossed the bow of the boat, but when about mid-way between Alcatraz and the Heads, seemingly whirled back towards the former. Similar but larger movements have been noted on several occasions during the last fifteen years.—JOHN W. MAILLIARD, *San Francisco, September 14, 1915.*

**A Golden-crowned Sparrow Lost on Mount Shasta.**—On August 22, 1915, I found a Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia coronata*) frozen in the snow at an altitude of 14,350 feet on Mount Shasta. The specimen was forwarded for verification of identity to the California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, where it is preserved as an alcoholic (no. 25531 of the bird collection). Since the bird is apparently in nuptial plumage, it had probably met its fate some time during the preceding spring migration period.—W. J. CHAMBERLIN, *Weed, California.*

**Late Nesting of the Arkansas Goldfinch.**—On October 22, 1915, while pruning some apple trees near my house, I was surprised to find a Goldfinch (*Astragalinus psaltria hesperophilus*) sitting on three eggs in a nest about eight feet above the ground in one of the apple trees. The young hatched on the 24th of October. I looked at the nest on November 4 and they were still in the nest; but on the 8th they had left, probably taken by a cat, though they may have flown by that time.—J. S. APPLETON, *Simi, Ventura County, California.*

**An Unusual Nest Addition.**—A nest of Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*) containing two eggs, apparently far advanced in incubation, was found on May 31, 1915, near Pasadena, and at that time there was nothing to distinguish it from any typical *alexandri* nest. It was built upon a slender branch of a sycamore and was more or less sheltered by an overhanging leaf. On June 11 the nest was again observed, in the meantime young birds having appeared, and it was noted that nest material had been added to the upper and outward part of the walls, extending upward about a half-inch. I had occasion to again visit the nest on June 18, and the tip of the overhanging leaf had been securely caught by spider webbing to the extended wall, thus forming a somewhat stationary canopy. As a protection from the sun the nest was but little better sheltered than before. Possibly the leaf drooped down to interfere with the feed-



Fig. 1. NEST OF BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD, SHOWING ATTACHMENT OF A LEAF TO THE RIM OF THE NEST

ing of the young or to the displeasure of the parent birds for some other reason, and this means was sought for removing the trouble.—HAROLD M. HOLLAND, *Los Angeles, California.*

**A Record of the Golden Plover in the State of Washington.**—This interesting species (*Charadrius dominicus dominicus*) has never before, to my knowledge, been recorded as occurring in the state of Washington. Therefore it is with great pleasure that I report the capture of an adult female at Dungeness, Clallam County, Washington. This specimen was collected by Mr. F. P. McIntyre, of Tacoma, Wash., on November 14, 1915. He very kindly presented it to me, and the skin is now in my collection. Mr. McIntyre tells me that he saw about a dozen other plover that resembled this one, but that he shot no

more. It is possible that the other birds seen might also have been *C. dominicus*; but it must be stated that the Black-bellied Plover is a common migrant in Washington, and it seems equally possible that the others might have been *Squatarola squatarola*.

Since the above-mentioned specimen was obtained Mr. D. E. Brown, of Seattle, Washington, tells me that a Golden Plover was taken some time ago in the vicinity of that city, but I believe that it has never been put on record. Mr. Brown also tells me that a year or two ago he saw on the Tacoma Flats what he feels certain was a bird of this species, owing to the large amount of yellow on the upper parts. This was in the late spring and the bird appeared to be in full breeding plumage. It seems possible, therefore, that this plover is of more frequent occurrence in the state than has been supposed.—J. H. BOWLES, *Tacoma, Washington*.

**A Note on the Food of the Northern Pileated Woodpecker.**—The stomach contents of a specimen of the Northern Pileated Woodpecker (*Phloeotomus pileatus abieticola*) taken at Lakeport, Lake County, California, November 5, 1915, and sent to the University of California Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, was found to be of peculiar interest. The stomach contained more than fifty carpenter ants (*Camponotus herculeanus* subsp.) and 131 seeds of poison oak (*Rhus diversiloba*). As the seeds of poison oak are hard and without a noticeable covering of softer material it is difficult to understand what there is about them that is attractive to birds. Certain it is that the seeds are incapable of complete digestion by woodpeckers. In California poison oak is a favorite food of the Red-shafted Flicker also. Ants are commonly taken by the Flicker, California Woodpecker and by Sapsuckers.

The stomachs of two Pileated Woodpeckers taken in or near Yosemite National Park (orig. nos. 1545 and 7814, in Mus. Vert. Zool.) were filled with carpenter ants (*Camponotus herculeanus modoc* Wheeler), many of them winged. Each stomach contained more than a hundred of these ants. In addition one stomach contained a whole fruit of manzanita (*Arctostaphylos nevadensis* Gray) and the other, four large beetle larvae (*Cerambycidae*), unidentifiable as to genus or species, which had evidently been dug out of some dead tree, as the stomach contained slivers of dead wood.

The above evidence shows that the animal food of the Pileated Woodpecker in California is largely made up of carpenter ants (*Camponotus* sp.) and to a lesser extent of wood-boring larvae. Vegetable food in the shape of poison oak seeds and the fruit of manzanita is occasionally taken.—H. C. BRYANT, *Berkeley, California*.

**Occurrence of Emperor Goose in Northern California.**—On November 1, 1915, Mr. S. M. Gridley, of Gridley, California, brought me an Emperor Goose for mounting. The bird was in full adult plumage, and in good physical condition. Sex identification was impossible on account of the damaged state of the internal organs. I at once appreciated the rarity of the goose and endeavored to obtain possession of the specimen, but the owner declined to part with it.

The gentleman reported that for a week prior to being killed, this goose had frequented, in the company of a flock of Cackling Geese, the territory adjacent to the tules west of the town. The bird was so tame as to lead to the supposition that it was a cripple, and only upon being closely approached did it fly.

I was further told that a similar goose had been shot last year in the same locality.  
—CARL S. MULLER, *Marysville, California*.

**Townsend Solitaire in the San Jacinto Mountains.**—In the field work conducted in the San Jacinto Mountains in 1908 by the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, and subsequently reported upon by Grinnell and Swarth (Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., vol. 10, 1913, pp. 197-406), the Townsend Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) was not met with at any point. From the number of collectors in our party, enabling us to cover a wide extent of ground, and from the length of time we spent in the mountains, we felt justified in the conclusion that our failure to encounter this species meant that it did not breed in this southern range. It was, therefore, with the greatest interest that I recently learned from Mr. O. W. Howard that this was a mistaken idea.

Messrs. O. W. Howard and H. J. Leland spent a few days of this year (1915) in Strawberry Valley and vicinity, where they discovered two nests of the Solitaire. The first was far up a narrow canyon heading on Tahquitz Peak and opening out in the

upper part of Strawberry Valley, the nest being at an altitude of approximately 7500 feet. It was discovered on July 4, and contained four small young. The parent bird was flushed from the nest. The second discovery, on July 5, was of a deserted nest, found in Dark Canyon, on the Banning road, northwest of Strawberry Valley.

On September 14, 1914, the present writer saw two Solitaires on the slopes of San Jacinto Peak, between Round Valley and the summit, and in September, 1915, Mr. L. E. Wyman tells me he collected three of the birds in Tahquitz Valley, and saw several more. These, of course, might all have been migrating individuals.

The breeding record of Messrs. Howard and Lelande is of especial interest as establishing the presence of the species at the extreme southern limit of the Boreal zone in California. Previous to this the Townsend Solitaire was known to breed in southern California only in the San Bernardino Mountains (Grinnell, Univ. Calif. Publ. Zool., vol. 5, 1908, p. 128).—H. S. SWARTH, *Museum of History, Science and Art, Los Angeles, California.*

**Auburn Canyon Wren, a Preferable Name for *Catherpes mexicanus punctulatus*.**—We have no recourse against misnomers in scientific nomenclature provided they establish priority; but it is silly to perpetuate in common speech the trivialities, or whimsicalities, or downright misapprehensions, of original describers. I have no quarrel with Mr. Ridgway for having named a new race of *Catherpes, punctulatus*. He had to name it something and he may have been struck at the time with an aspect of his new bird which later experience proved not to be distinctive. At any rate in his latest description (Birds of North & Middle America, Part III, p. 659), Mr. Ridgway does not even refer to this feature of punctateness. He merely says of *C. m. punctulatus*: "Similar in small size to *C. m. conspersus* but decidedly darker".

This darker coloration, then, is the point to emphasize, and the point which should have been brought out in nomenclature (doubtless would have been if *brunneicapillus* had been accurately descriptive or had not already been worn to a frazzle in the service of the Wrens), instead of a purely hypothetical dottedness. Now, every one who knows this jolly mountaineer of California, knows that his coat is of a rich auburn hue. To call him "Dotted" by preëminence, is to imply that his conspecific associates are *not* dotted, or *not as* conspicuously dotted as he, which is not at all the case. To cling to such a misconception or false emphasis merely for custom's sake is to repeat the offense and to be unscientific. I propose, then, as a designation both suitable and distinctive for the California bird the name *Auburn Canyon Wren*.

This same method of criticism may be applied to several other cases, fortunately only a residual few among Western bird-names. The name "Long-tailed Chat" for *Icteria virens longicauda* is technically correct; the bird has a longer tail than its eastern relative, *a third of an inch longer!* but no one would ever have seized upon such a trivial mark for a name, save in ignorance and sheer despair. Besides, the western bird has half a dozen other distinctive characters just as palpable. And there are only two Chats. For pity's sake and for the sake of our own good sense, let us cease to brandish this extra third of an inch on a bird's tail. Call it the Western Chat.

As another instance of the poverty of attention or laziness of invention, behold our literal translation of *Rallus levipes*, the Light-footed Rail, of course! And because of this flippant character (whose claims it would take a two-pound can of printers' ink to successfully define anyway), we are suffered to forget that the southern bird is a Clapper Rail. But "Light-footed Rail" does sound well. It flicks the imagination and is undeniably romantic. It almost picks the pocket of my prejudice. Light-fingered Rail would do it quite. Moreover, the name as it stands has a market value. Why, the skin of a "Light-footed Rail" sounds twice as expensive as would the skin of a Southwestern Clapper Rail with its implied taint of subspecificness. I have neither skins nor eggs myself, but I withdraw my objection in this case in favor of certain worthy friends, worthy and needy.

Remains only one sticker in the writer's dyspeptic crop, the "Ashy" Petrel, *Oceanodroma homochroa*. The bird simply *isn't* ashy. It is plumbeous black. The man of only ordinary intelligence picking up a waif Petrel on the strand out of range, has to consult his books to know whether his find is really an "Ashy" Petrel, or a Black Petrel (*O. melania*). No amount of nomenclatorial abuse heaped upon this bird will ever make its plumage recognizably cinereous. Why not call it, then, after the worthy man who discovered it, "Couch" Petrel?—WILLIAM LEON DAWSON, *Santa Barbara, California.*

**Notes from the San Bernardino Mountains, California.**—From June 21 to July 1, 1915, I spent in field work at Big Bear Valley and Bluff Lake in the San Bernardino Mountains. I was also in the same locality from September 16 to 20, 1915. The following are some of my notes that may be of interest.

*Dafila acuta*. Pintail, or Sprig. This duck was abundant from September 16 to 20. There were at least a thousand, and probably many more, on Baldwin Lake, and several hundred at the east end of Bear Lake. The greater majority were either females or birds of the year, very few adult males being seen.

*Ortyx picta plumifera*. Plumed Quail. I saw a pair of these birds on June 27 in the buckthorn along the lake shore near the I. S. Ranch. Their actions showed that they had a family of young. These are the only ones that I have ever seen in Bear Valley during several collecting trips there.

*Accipiter velox*. Sharp-shinned Hawk. Several were seen in Bear Valley from September 16 to 20. They were apparently absent during June.

*Falco mexicanus*. Prairie Falcon. One flew over me, near enough for certain identification, along the lake shore near the east end of Bear Lake on September 17.

*Bubo virginianus pacificus*. Pacific Horned Owl. Heard nearly every night along the lake shore both in June and September. Specimens were very hard to obtain as the birds were exceedingly wary. No adults were taken, but on June 24 I shot a nearly full-fledged young female from a pine tree.

*Chordeiles virginianus hesperis*. Pacific Nighthawk. Pacific Nighthawks were very common at both Bear Lake and Bluff Lake during my stay in June. They were most often seen in the evenings when they were flying high overhead apparently catching insects. At this time their shrill notes, and loud "whoof", made at the end of a dart downward through the air, were often heard. Several times late in the afternoon I heard their notes high overhead, most often near Bluff Lake, so that at times these birds must fly about during the daytime. From September 16 to 20 I did not see or hear one of these birds.

*Cyanocitta stelleri frontalis*. Blue-fronted Jay. A nest was discovered June 21 near Bear Lake, placed fifteen feet up on a large branch of a silver fir. The nest contained five very small young at this time. This pair of birds seemed to take particular delight in attempting to approach a Western Robin's nest, that was in a small pine tree near our camp and not far from the Jay's nest. Apparently they were never successful, as the Robins were always on their guard and would drive them away with many angry notes and much fluttering of wings.

*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*. Yellow-headed Blackbird. I shot an adult male along the east shore of Baldwin Lake on July 1. This was the only one met with and I believe is the first recorded from the valley.

*Sturnella neglecta*. Western Meadowlark. One pair was seen on a meadow near the I. S. Ranch, and several others were noted near Knight's Camp on June 30.

*Carpodacus cassini*. Cassin Purple Finch. About Bear Lake Cassin Finches were very common feeding on small weed seeds in the meadows near the lake shore. Out of a dozen specimens, nearly all apparently breeding birds, there was only one female.

*Melospiza lincolni lincolni*. Lincoln Sparrow. On June 21 in a small meadow near Bluff Lake I found a nest containing five eggs of this bird, incubation just started. The nest was placed on the ground at the base of a small bunch of hellebore, and was composed mostly of grass, with a little hair and one feather for a lining. I spent considerable time in further search but did not find any more nests although there were several of the sparrows apparently nesting there. On June 26 in the same locality I shot an immature male just able to fly, but did not discover any more nests. The five eggs taken strongly resemble Song Sparrow eggs; they are, however, a very little smaller, more coarsely blotched, and with a lighter blue ground color.

*Myadestes townsendi*. Townsend Solitaire. Only one of these birds was seen. On June 23 in a little canyon near Bluff Lake I shot an adult male, a breeding bird. The bird had only one long tail feather, but a new tail was about a third developed.

*Hylocichla guttata sequoiensis*. Sierra Hermit Thrush. One, a breeding female, was taken and another seen on June 26 along a little stream near Bluff Lake.—WRIGHT M. PIERCE, Claremont, California.

**White-winged Scoter in Klamath County, Oregon.**—On November 11, 1915, a duck hunter who had been hunting down the river below town brought in a White-winged Scoter (*Oidemia deglandi*) which I skinned and saved. I doubt very much if this bird has ever been recorded from this locality before. My brother claims to have killed one several years ago while hunting ducks down the river. These are the only ones I have ever heard of being taken in this locality.—HARRY TELFORD, *Klamath Falls, Oregon.*

**Marbled Godwit in Colorado.**—There are not many definite records of *Limosa fedoa* in Colorado. A specimen in the State University Museum, taken northeast of Boulder by James Cowie, September 18, 1915, adds this species to the Boulder County list.—JUNIUS HENDERSON, *University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado.*

**The Pigeon Guillemot Nesting in San Francisco.**—Having read with interest Mr. Joseph Mailliard's record of the Scaup Duck breeding within the confines of San Francisco (CONDOR, vol. XVII, p. 235) and which, by the way, I should like to confirm, having observed, in early July of 1913, a female *Aythya affinis*, with three young, swimming about Stowe Lake, the following may also be worthy of note.

During the summer of 1911, my attention was called by a friend, to a species of "duck" nesting in an inaccessible cleft on the high, rocky bluffs that border the ocean at the entrance to the Golden Gate. Investigation disclosed the fact that a pair of Pigeon Guillemots (*Cephus columba*), had tenanted the cavity, and were, at that date, the first of July, busily engaged in carrying food to their young.

About June 1 of the following year, 1912, Mr. H. W. Carriger and the writer, having noted several birds in the vicinity, proceeded with aid of a rope to examine the nesting locality of the previous year. The cranny, a very deep and well adapted site, proved, however, to be unoccupied.

Some five days later, on June 5, the writer returned alone, and in climbing around a precipitous promontory, flushed a Guillemot from a cave near the water's edge. The nest contained a set of two eggs, almost fresh, which are now in my collection. Further search disclosed the occupancy of another hole above an unscalable ledge, and still another pair apparently breeding on a small detached island, the last, however, being unestablished.

Since then, close watch has been kept, but for some reason, probably the disturbing of their secluded homes and the collecting of two specimens, the birds have entirely absented themselves from this locality, and during the past three years, have never again been seen.—GEORGE W. SCHUSSLER, *San Francisco, California.*

**The Coloration of Eggs.**—Several inquiries have appeared lately in the various ornithological journals as to the time and manner in which the pigments are deposited upon the egg-shell. What is perhaps the most thorough treatise upon this subject will be found in Chapter XII of "A History of Birds", by W. P. Pycraft. The text is much too long to be quoted here in its entirety, but perhaps the following extract may be of value to those who have not access to the above-named volume. Mr. Pycraft says:

"We may assume that . . . this pigment is deposited by the walls of the oviduct, and it would seem that in many cases this deposition takes place in two different regions of the duct, first on the formation of the earlier layers of the shell, where little more than a slight staining is effected, and later when the shell is nearly complete; in most cases there is no coloration until the egg has passed some way down the oviduct. It would then appear that the ground colour is first deposited, and after this the peculiar markings of the particular egg. When these are formed while the egg is at rest a sharply defined spot is the result; but it commonly happens that the deposit of pigment takes place while the egg is in motion, smears and blotches being the result; and it would further appear that the egg in its passage rotates, inasmuch as these streaks and lines show a decided spiral arrangement. These various evidences of the process of coloration can be well seen in eggs of many birds of prey, as well as those of . . . the Guillemots, for example."—D. I. SHEPARDSON, *Los Angeles, California.*

**A Record of the Forbush Sparrow in the State of Washington.**—So far as I have been able to ascertain there is no definite record of this form (*Melospiza lincolni striata*) as occurring in Washington. It is of interest, therefore, to state that I had the good fortune to collect a typical female of this subspecies near Tacoma on November 11, 1915. The bird was identified for me through the kindness of Mr. Joseph Grinnell. I feel positive that there was at least one other in the same locality, a large field grown over with thistles and other weeds, but they were so shy that it was only by a lucky chance that I secured the one here recorded.—J. HOOPER BOWLES, *Tacoma, Washington.*